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THE JOURNAL OF AMERICAN FOLK-LORE.

VOL. VIII. — JANUARY-MARCH, 1895. — No. XXVIII.

SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.

THE Sixth Annual Meeting was held at the Columbian University, Washington, D. C., on December 27 and 28.

The Society was called to order at 11 A. M. In the absence of Prof. Alcée Fortier, President of the Society, Prof. Otis T. Mason took the chair.

The Secretary read a letter from the President. In this communication Professor Fortier expressed his regret at being deprived of the pleasure he had anticipated in meeting his colleagues, his absence being rendered necessary by sickness and death in his family. No person took a greater interest in the welfare of the American Folk-Lore Society, the establishment of which had given a remarkable impulse to research and study in this department. Of the interest thus awakened, he was made aware by letters from different parts of the country. It was to be desired that this branch of knowledge should be included in the course of studies of colleges and reading circles. The Society, he thought, had reason to be satisfied with its Journal and with the reception of the first volume of its memoirs. Professor Fortier referred to other existing folk-lore societies and their progress, and concluded by expressing his regards to members present at the meeting.

On motion of Prof. H. Carrington Bolton, the Secretary was directed to express the regrets of the Society at the enforced absence of its President.

The Report of the Council for the year 1893 was read, as follows : —

The financial disturbances of the year 1894 have been so serious that the American Folk-Lore Society seems to have reason for self-congratulation in the successful accomplishment of its seventh year. The number of annual members, by whose fees the operations of the

Society are mainly supported, remains about the same as at the close of the previous year, something more than five hundred names, according to the report of the Secretary, now standing on the books of the Society.

This number, however, is altogether inadequate for the purposes to be accomplished. It would seem that it ought to be possible to increase the membership to one thousand, a support which would enable the Society to carry out at least a part of the ends which it ought to promote. Members are urged, individually, to do all in their power to make known the existence and work of the organization.

During the present year the series of *Memoirs of the American Folk-Lore Society* has been begun with the publication of the "Folk-Tales of Angola," by Mr. Heli Chatelain. The Council feel that the Society has every reason to be satisfied with this first volume, which in their opinion is thoroughly creditable. The relation of these African myths to those of American negroes makes such an introduction to the series appropriate as an indication of the broad objects of the Society.

The second volume of the *Memoirs*, "Louisiana Folk-Tales, in French Dialect and English Translation," collected and edited by Prof. Alcée Fortier, with English translation, is now in the press, and will shortly be ready for distribution. Subscribers to the Publication Fund will therefore obtain in return for their contribution for 1894 two volumes of the series.

The fees of annual members are at present only sufficient to properly publish the organ of the Society, the "Journal of American Folk-Lore." The publication of the *Memoirs* must therefore stand on an independent financial basis. In order, therefore, to allow of such publication, an annual subscription of ten dollars has been instituted, the Society thus obtaining from each such contributor seven dollars for the Publication Fund, in addition to the regular fee of three dollars, which entitles him to a copy of the Journal. During the year 1894 have been received subscriptions, insuring about six hundred dollars for additional publication. In producing two volumes of the *Memoirs*, by the aid of this sum and of its reserve funds, the Society has done all in its power.

The work of the Society, however, ought not absolutely to be confined to publication. Constant opportunities occur, in which a doubtful subject could be elucidated by research, provided that it were possible to defray the inevitable expenses of the observer. Whether among negroes of the United States, in French Canada, or Spanish Mexico, or even among the white population of isolated districts, interesting material is lost, because there is no adequate means

of providing for its record. The Journal, with small outlay, could be made very much more creditable to American scholarship. If the number of ten-dollar subscribers could be increased to three hundred, the Society would then be in possession of a revenue enabling it to accomplish a work in some measure proportional to the extent of the field.

Persons interested in primitive life and in the study of oral tradition are earnestly urged to assist in forwarding the plans of the Society. As the scope of its labors include the whole continent, the assistance of persons interested in Americana, in all parts of the United States and Canada, may fairly be urged to aid in its support. Whatever help is given to this Society, and to its publications, will assist in giving an impulse to both private and public research.

In order to maintain the publications of the Society, and to increase popular interest in the subject, it is desirable to promote local meetings. It would seem, that in any large city, it ought to be possible to hold at least a few such meetings in the course of the winter, in which subjects connected with folk-lore might be discussed.

On motion, the report was adopted.

The Annual Report for the year 1894, made by the Treasurer to the Council, was read in abstract.

RECEIPTS.

Balance, January 1, 1894	\$1,677.05
Annual fees received	1,248.90
Subscriptions to Publication Fund	673.00
Sales of "Folk-Tales of Angola" to members	79.00
" " volumes of Journal " "	30.00
Houghton, Mifflin & Co., sales of Journal	141.96
" " " " " " "Folk-Tales of Angola"	348.69
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	\$4,198.60

DISBURSEMENTS.

To Houghton, Mifflin & Co., manufacturing five numbers of the Journal, mailing expenses, circularization, etc.	\$1,609.40
"Folk-Tales of Angola" circularization, etc.	1,211.20
Necessary expenses of Secretary and Treasurer, for printing, etc.	74.40
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	\$2,895.00
Balance to new account	1,303.60
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	\$4,198.60

The next business being the election of officers, it was moved that the Chair appoint a committee to report nominations. The Chair named Miss Alice C. Fletcher, Capt. J. G. Bourke, Mr. W. W. Newell.

This concluded the business of the morning session.

At 2 P. M. the Society was called to order, the chair being occupied by Rev. J. Owen Dorsey. The Society proceeded to the reading of papers, as follows :—

Washington Matthews, Major and Surgeon, U. S. A. : "A Navajo Myth."

R. R. Moten, Hampton, Va. : "Negro Folk-Songs."

William Wells Newell, Cambridge, Mass. : "Theories of the Diffusion of Folk-Tales."

Prof. J. Walter Fewkes, Boston, Mass. : "Illustrations of the Codex of Cortez."

In the evening, from 8 to 10, the Society was tendered a reception in the Washington Club, by the Anthropological Society of Washington, and the Woman's Anthropological Society. The receiving committee consisted of Prof. O. T. Mason, Miss Alice C. Fletcher, Dr. J. Owen Dorsey. The programme consisted of the rendition, by the phonograph and vocally, of selections from the music of the North American Indians. Major J. W. Powell introduced the speakers, making remarks on the study of Indian music, and on the collectors connected with the Bureau of Ethnology, who had devoted time to its examination. Dr. J. Washington Matthews presented, by means of the phonograph, Navajo songs, explaining the character and use of the several pieces. Mr. Frank Hamilton Cushing sang several Zuni songs, and Rev. J. Owen Dorsey those of Sioux. Miss Alice C. Fletcher, with Mr. La Flesche, sang Omaha songs connected with the ritual of the Peace Pipe. Professor Mason made remarks on the value of the investigations now in progress, as connected with the theory of the musical scale, and with ethnologic research.

On Friday, December 28, the Society was called to order at 10 A. M., and sat until one, the afternoon session being at 2 P. M., and the reading of papers continued in the evening, from eight to ten. The papers presented were as follows :—

Rev. J. Owen Dorsey, Washington, D. C. : "Kwapa Folk-Lore."

Frank Hamilton Cushing, Washington, D. C. : "Ritualistic and Calendaric Nature of the Central American Codices."

John G. Bourke, Captain 3d Cavalry, U. S. A.: "Remarks on Mexican Folk-Foods."

Mrs. Fanny D. Bergen, Cambridge, Mass.: "Burial and Holiday Customs and Beliefs of the Irish Peasantry."

Dr. Thomas Wilson, Washington, D. C.: "The Swastika."

Prof. H. Carrington Bolton, New York, N. Y.: "The Game of Goose, with Examples from England, Holland, Germany, and Italy."

Major J. W. Powell, Washington, D. C.: "Interpretation of American Indian Folk-Tales."

Prof. Daniel G. Brinton, M. D., Philadelphia, Pa.: "The Interpretation of Analogies in Folk-Lore."

Marshall K. Saville, New York, N. Y.: "Opportunities for Ethnological Investigation on the Eastern Coast of Yucatan."

Homer H. Kidder, Cambridge, Mass.: "Origin of the Mide-wiwin." (Ojibwa Folk-Tale.)

Zelia Nuttall, Philadelphia, Pa.: "A Note on Ancient Mexican Folk-Lore."

J. N. B. Hewitt, Washington, D. C.: "Iroquoian Concepts of the Soul."

Albert S. Gatschet, Washington, D. C.: "Manito."

In the evening, by request, Prof. J. Walter Fewkes continued his paper, which was discussed by Mr. F. H. Cushing and Dr. D. G. Brinton.

During the afternoon the committee appointed for the purpose reported the following nominations for 1895:—

President: Washington Matthews, Washington, D. C.; First Vice-President: J. Owen Dorsey, Washington, D. C.; Second Vice-President: John G. Bourke, Fort Ethan Allen, Vt.

Councillors, for three years: W. M. Beauchamp, Baldwinsville, N. Y.; D. G. Brinton, Philadelphia, Pa.; Alice C. Fletcher, Washington, D. C. For two years: Gardner P. Stickney, Milwaukee, Wis. For one year: George Bird Grinnell, New York, N. Y.

The following were nominated by the Council, and elected by the Society to be Honorary Members:—

Prof. Francis James Child, Cambridge, Mass.

Prof. Angelo de Gubernatis, Rome, Italy.

Prof. James G. Frazer, Cambridge, England.

The following publications were announced to have been authorized by the Council as the volumes of Memoirs in preparation, and hereafter to be included in the series:—

Current Superstitions collected from the Oral Tradition of English-Speaking Folk in America, by Mrs. Fanny D. Bergen.

Navajo Myths, with Introduction and Notes, by Washington Matthews, Major and Surgeon, U. S. A.

The annual meeting for 1895 was appointed to be held in Philadelphia, December 29 and 30.

At the motion of Mr. F. H. Cushing, a resolution of thanks was offered to the presiding officers of the meeting.

At the motion of Mr. W. W. Newell, the thanks of the Society were voted to the Anthropological Society of Washington, the Woman's Anthropological Society, and to the friends of the Society in the city who had been instrumental in the success of the meeting.